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exert their actions in the patient, producing the varying manifestations of the acute allergic reaction. The role of histamine, 5-hydroxytryptamine (serotonin), acetylcholine, slow-reacting substances of anaphylaxis, and bradykinin is discussed, and an attempt is made to assess their importance. Heparin release is probably of significance only in anaphylaxis in the dog.

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ALCIAN GREEN: A ROUTINE STAIN FOR MUCINS—F. A. Putt and P. B. Hukill, Arch. Path., 74:169 (Aug.) 1962.

Alcian green is a specific stain for acid mucopolysaccharides. The simplicity of its application recommends it as a preferred method for epithelial and connective tissue mucins in routine pathologic material. Two staining techniques are described, one involving Kernechtrot and metanil yellow as counterstain, the other involving the Verhoeff-van Gieson elastic tissue method as counterstain. The second method is useful in studying tumors, allowing the evaluation of mucus production and vascular invasion in the same section.

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HISTOLOGICAL STUDY OF WOUND WASHINGS FOR TUMOR CELLS—M. Weinlos, G. R. Macdonald, and J. D. Taylor, Canad. J. Surg., 5:278 (July) 1962.

Wound washes from 169 patients were obtained either at operation or at autopsy and examined for tumor cells on a double blind basis. The cellular material was stained with hematoxylin-eosin and examined by a pathologist. Tumor cells were found from (1) 25 per cent of patients with cancer and (2) 13 per cent of patients where cancer was neither suspected nor subsequently found. Washes from Group 2, where cells that appeared malignant were detected,

were termed "false positives." Although tumor cells can be isolated from wound beds, this study emphasizes the need for better cytological techniques for the identification of malignant cells.

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DETRUSOR HYPERTROPHY: ROENTGENOGRAPHIC DETECTION OF EARLY BLADDER NECK OBSTRUCTION—J. Edeken, G. Strong, and A. Khajavi, Radiology, 79:88 (July) 1962.

A soft-tissue shadow, surrounding the contrast-filled bladder, was observed during intravenous urography in 40 of 57 patients with proved bladder-neck obstruction. This finding, representing compensatory hypertrophy of the detrusor muscle, is best demonstrated before decompensation has occurred. The sign is usually lost when large amounts of residual urine stretch and thin the previously hypertrophied bladder wall. The shadow has not been observed in normal subjects.

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SIMPLE GASTRIC BIOPSY: EXPERIENCE WITH CROSBY-KUGLER CAPSULE—M. H. Floch and T. W. Sheehy, Gastroenterology, 43:32 (July) 1962.

Using the Crosby-Kugler capsule, 61 gastric biopsies were performed on 40 patients. The procedure described yielded diagnostic tissue in all but one instance. No episode of perforation or bleeding was encountered by serial clinical, hematological, or stool guaiac studies. The technique is safe and rapid and causes little discomfort to the patient.

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URINARY WHITE CELL EXCRETION—P. J. Little, Lancet 1:1149 (June 2) 1962.

The urinary white cell excretion rate has been measured in 50 women using a form of mid-stream sampling. The

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results are similar to those obtained when the urine is collected with a catheter. In addition, in 304 patients the white cell excretion rate measured using a Fuchs-Rosenthal counting chamber has been compared in the same urines with the number of cells seen per high power field on examining the centrifugal urine deposit without a counting chamber. Of 155 urines in which only 1 to 5 cells were seen per high power field, 42 had abnormally high white cell excretion rates. Some of these urines were infected.

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BEHAVIOR OF SERUM QUININE OXIDASE IN DISEASES OF LIVER—I. Ragno and I. Baldi, *Riforma Med.*, 76:408 (April 14) 1962.

The study of quinine oxidase in liver disease was conducted on 86 persons; 56 suffered from hepatopathies, 15 had other diseases, and 15 were considered healthy. Results obtained showed that the reaction was not specifically connected with proof of damage in the hepatic parenchyma. In cases of acute hepatitis the reaction was intensely positive. The test, therefore, should not be considered as specific in revealing the existence or not of hepatic parenchymal disorder, but because of intense positivity observed in cases of acute hepatitis, it should be considered as a useful test in the differential diagnosis of hepatocellular jaundice and jaundice due to cholestasis.

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CHRONIC CALCIFIC PANCREATITIS IN A CHILD—J. M. Batson and D. H. Law, *Gastroenterology*, 43:95 (July) 1962.

A case of chronic calcific pancreatitis occurring in a child is reported. Unusual manifestations of this case, including

presentation with ascites, a probable traumatic etiology, and the rarity of this condition occurring in childhood are discussed and reviewed. Although pancreatic calcification is seen on x-ray, the patient has developed normally and is essentially asymptomatic after a three-year followup.

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COMBINATION THERAPY OF MALIGNANT HEMANGIOENDOTHELIOMA WITH RADIATION AND METHOTREXATE—G. A. Hyman, F. Herter and R. Guttman, *Radiology*, 79:6 (July) 1962.

The authors had an unusual opportunity to study 4 cases of metastatic malignant hemangioendothelioma in the course of one year. These were treated with methotrexate alone, radiotherapy alone, and methotrexate and radiotherapy in combination. The authors believe that radiotherapy as well as methotrexate alone in adequate dosage will cause tumor regression for periods as long as 10 months. They conclude that the combination of the two agents yields the best results in the treatment of this rare and aggressive tumor.

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TREATMENT OF CARCINOMA OF THE ENDOMETRIUM—J. M. Sala and J. A. del Reggato, *Radiology*, 79:12 (July) 1962.

A series of 242 cases of carcinoma of the endometrium with a 100 per cent followup is reported. The absolute survival rates at 3, 5, and 10 years are 56 per cent, 46 per cent, and 39 per cent respectively. No vaginal implants or metastases were observed during the first three years of followup of 118 patients treated by a combination of preoperative radiotherapy and hysterectomy. The trend of the data favors roentgenotherapy over curietherapy as the modality of choice for the preoperative irradiation of carcinoma of the endometrium.



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